

National Gang Facts & Figures



It is estimated that approximately 731,500 gang members and 21,500 gangs were active in the United States in 2002. (2002 National Youth Gang Survey, NYGC)



In 2002, gangs were active in more than 2,300 cities with a population of 2,500 or more. (2002 National Youth Gang Survey, NYGC)



91% of cities with a population of more than 250,000 reported at least one gang-related homicide from 1999 to 2000. (National Youth Gang Survey Trends From 1996 to 2000, OJJDP, 2002)



64% of cities with a population between 100,000 and 250,000; 55% of cities with a population between 50,000 and 100,000; and 32% of cities with a population between 25,000 and 50,000 reported at least one gang-related homicide from 1999 to 2000. (National Youth Gang Survey Trends From 1996 to 2000, OJJDP, 2002)



There were a total of 115 gangland murders and 819 juvenile gang killings during 2003. (Federal Bureau of Investigation, Murders Circumstances by Relationship, 2003)



42% of local law enforcement survey respondents indicated their youth gang problem was "getting worse" in 2002, compared with 16% who indicated it was "getting better." In the 2001 survey, these statistics were 27% and 20%, respectively. (2002 National Youth Gang Survey, NYGC)



In 1999 it was estimated that 47% of gang members were Hispanic, 31% were African American, 13% were white, and 7% were Asian. These percentages seem to have remained fairly steady. (National Youth Gang Survey Trends From 1996 to 2000, OJJDP, 2002)



It is estimated that 94% of gang members were male and 6% were female in 2000. (National Youth Gang Survey Trends From 1996 to 2000, OJJDP, 2002)

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